



## **H.R. 1593 - Second Chance Act of 2007**

### **FLOOR SITUATION**

H.R. 1593 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Danny Davis (D-IL) on March 20, 2007. The bill was reported as amended by the House Committee on Judiciary by voice vote on March 28, 2007.

H.R. 1593 is expected to be considered on the floor on November 13, 2007.

### **SUMMARY**

H.R. 1593 reauthorizes a grant program established in the “Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 “(PL-90-351), which was designed to improve reentry of felons into communities. The bill focuses on four main areas related to reentry: development and support of programs that provide alternatives to incarceration, expansion of the availability of substance abuse treatment, strengthening the families of ex-offenders, and the expansion of comprehensive re-entry services.

The following grants are included in this legislation:

- Re-authorizes state and local reentry demonstration programs for adult and juvenile offenders.
  - This grant is available for agencies that engage in programs designed to assist ex-offenders with job opportunities, monitoring services, housing, mentoring, education, and with the transition to life after prison.
  - \$65,000,000 for FY08 and FY09 is authorized in this section.
- Authorizes grants for state and local reentry courts.
  - These grants are not to be more than \$500,000 for each individual court.
  - Reentry courts work with the community in which they are established and assist ex-offenders in reentering society after jail. They can assist with housing, job training, mentoring, family services, and a variety of other areas.
  - \$10,000,000 for FY08 and FY09 is authorized in this section.
- Authorizes grants for comprehensive and continuous offender reentry task forces.

- These task forces are used to integrate offenders back into society. They are set in communities to help carry out programs such as:
    - identifying employment opportunities and goals;
    - identifying housing opportunities;
    - providing for any needed drug treatment;
    - providing for any needed mental health services;
    - providing for any needed health care services;
    - providing for any needed family counseling;
    - providing for offender case management programs or services; and,
    - providing for any other service specified by the Comprehensive and Continuous Offender Reentry Task Force as necessary for the offender.
  - \$10,000,000 for FY08 and FY09 is authorized in this section.
- Authorizes grants for family substance abuse programs as an alternative to incarceration.
- These grants are for states and local governments to assist in developing and implementing family-based substance abuse programs in order to help offenders with families avoid jail time.
  - \$10,000,000 for FY08 and FY09 is authorized in this section.
- Authorizes grants for incarcerated parents of minor children.
- These grants are for states and local governments to assist in helping parents specifically with minors to reintegrate into society. They can be used for services such as parental skills training, legal services, and relapse prevention. Additionally, on a case by case basis, it will be determined if the extended family will be helpful in the rehabilitation process.
  - \$10,000,000 for FY08 and FY09 is authorized in this section.
- Authorizes a grant program to study and evaluate educational methods at prisons, jails and juvenile facilities.
- These grants are available to evaluate the educational and vocational programs at jails and juvenile centers. Recommendations to improve the programs are then passed to onto the Attorney General for later implementation.
  - \$10,000,000 for FY08 and FY09 is authorized in this section.
- Authorizes a grant program to improve educational services at prisons, jails and juvenile facilities.

- These grants are available to implement and improve educational standards at prisons, jails, and juvenile facilities.
  - \$10,000,000 for FY08 and FY09 is authorized in this section.
- Authorizes grants for demonstration programs designed to reduce long-term substance abusers upon returning to the community.
- These grants are available to state and local governments, agencies, and organizations dedicated to providing support services to offenders who have had a history of drug abuse problems.
  - This section also requires the Attorney General to report back to Congress no later than September 30, 2009 as to the success of any programs funded.
  - \$5,000,000 for FY08 and FY09 is authorized in this section.
- Authorizes grants for demonstration programs designed to reduce long-term substance abusers while in prison.
- These grants are available to state and local governments, agencies, and organizations dedicated to providing support services to offenders who have had a history of drug abuse problems.
  - This section also requires the Attorney General to report back to Congress no later than September 30, 2009 as to the success of any programs funded.
  - \$5,000,000 for FY08 and FY09 is authorized in this section.
- Authorizes grants to prisons, jails and juvenile facilities in order to assist with their drug treatment programs.
- \$10,000,000 for FY08 and FY09 is authorized in this section.
- Authorizes grants to ensure the proper availability and delivery of new pharmacological drug treatment services in jails, prisons, and juvenile treatment centers.
- These grants are available to state and local governments to assist in ensuring the proper drugs are available for the treatment of drug addiction in jails, prisons, and juvenile centers.
  - \$10,000,000 for FY08 and FY09 is authorized in this section.
- Authorizes a study by the National Institute on Drug Abuse to study the effectiveness of Depot Naltrexone for heroin addiction.
- This section authorizes grant money for public and private research companies to carry out studies involving Depot Naltrexone and its effectiveness in reducing addiction to heroin.

- \$5,000,000 for FY08 and FY09 is authorized in this section.
- Authorizes grants for technology training.
  - These grants are available to States and local governments to provide technology training to offenders to help reintegrate them into the community.
  - \$5,000,000 for FY08 and FY09 is authorized in this section.
- Authorizes grants to non-profit organizations for mentoring programs.
  - These grants are available to non-for-profit organizations that assist in the process of transitioning offenders back into the community.
  - \$15,000,000 for FY08 and FY09 is authorized in this section.
- Establishes a Federal Prisoner Reentry Program.
  - This program will be run by the Director of the Bureau of Prisons and will assist in transition and preparation of prisoners in a successful return to the community.
  - \$5,000,000 for FY08 and FY09 is authorized in this section.
- Establishes an elderly nonviolent offender pilot act.
  - This pilot act would evaluate the effectiveness of taking elderly inmates and moving them to home detention facilities, to serve the same amount of time as originally sentenced.
  - The prisoner must be over the age of 60, serving a term of less than 10 years and must not have committed a violent crime.
  - \$5,000,000 for FY08 and FY09 is authorized in this section.
- Authorizes grants for post parole studies
  - These grants are available to States to assist in the collection and management of records and data relating to parole and offenders.
  - \$1,000,000 for FY08 and FY09 is authorized in this section.

## **BACKGROUND**

The goal of this legislation is to assist in helping offenders re-acquaint themselves to society. It seeks to keep offenders from returning to jail via several options. The cost of maintaining corrections facilities and inmates has skyrocketed from \$9,000,000 in 1982 to \$59,000,000 in the year 1992. This legislation helps to keep those costs down by ensuring offenders get the proper tools necessary to return to society upon release as well as continued support once they leave.

Prisoners have cited that family support is crucial in returning to a normal civilian life and this legislation places emphasis on trying to keep the family intact during the incarceration period. It also helps substance abuse users both in and out of jail. Many repeat offenders cite substance abuse as a factor in their return to jail.

Legislation similar to H.R. 1593, H.R. 1704 the “Second Chance Act of 2005” was introduced in the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress by Representative Rob Portman (R-OH) on April 19, 2005. The current bill H.R. 1593 has been modified from the bill introduced by Rep. Portman.

### **COST**

According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) “Assuming appropriation of the authorized and estimated amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1593 would cost about \$400 million over the 2008-2012 period. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or receipts.

### **STAFF CONTACT**

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